

# DMI

## Desktop Management Interface

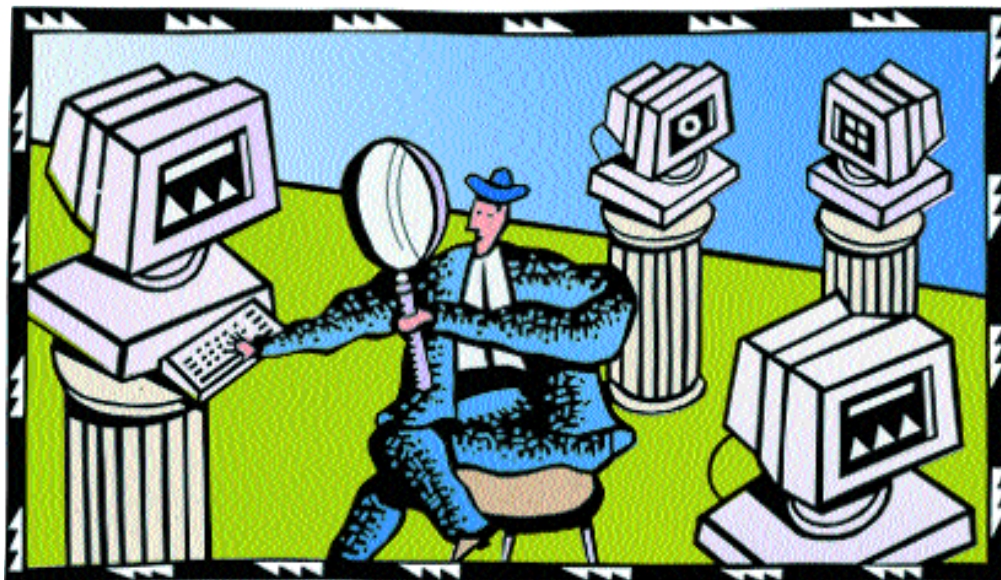
*DMI and Remote Desktop Management Interface (RDMI) provide network administrators with enhanced capabilities for managing, configuring, monitoring and controlling personal computers in client/server environments. DMI's common interface, ease of use and interoperability extend beyond PCs to include printers, servers, modems and other system peripherals.*

### TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS:

- Independent Hardware Vendors
- Independent Software Vendors
- Operating System Vendors

### USER BENEFITS:

- Simplified PC management
- Reduced support costs
- Real-time product diagnostics
- Remote administration
- Asset management



Computer networks have become a strategic asset in today's business arena, allowing many people to share and access information. However, because the personal computer was originally developed as a stand-alone device, it has been difficult to manage in networked environments. As a result, PC management today often requires expert intervention well beyond the capabilities of most users.

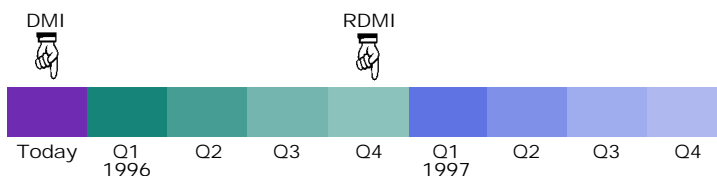
In 1992, the Desktop Management Task Force (DMTF) was formed to develop industry accepted specifications to simplify management of desktop computers, servers, software and peripherals. Some of the companies on the DMTF committee are AST Research, Compaq, Dell, Digital Equipment Corporation, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Intel Corporation, Microsoft, Novell, SunSoft and Symantec. Over 350 hardware and software

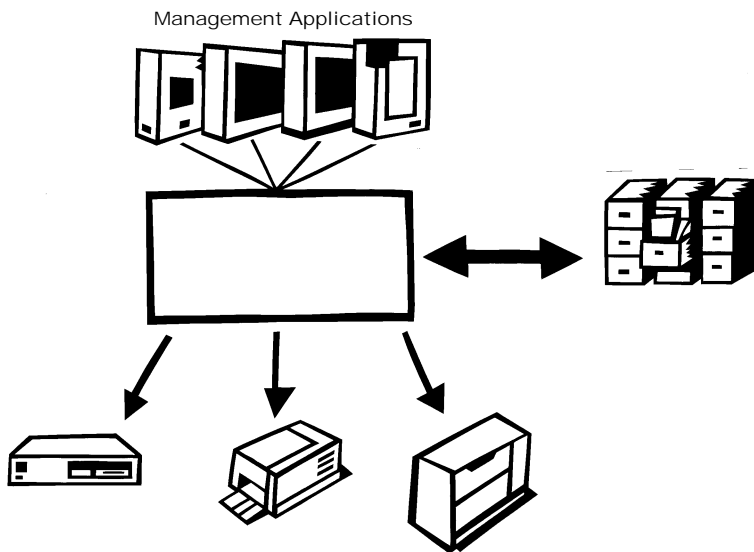
vendors have contributed to efforts of the DMTF. DMI is now a common solution that enables network-based management of PCs.

### Putting DMI to Good Use

DMI provides network administrators with enhanced capabilities for handling all the tasks associated with managing personal computers and peripherals in today's networked environments. DMI's common interface allows management application vendors to focus on developing better products that simplify activities such as network monitoring, tracking information, inventory and asset management, troubleshooting and even installing new applications on a user's PC remotely. LAN administrators can easily configure PCs, examine BIOS and download drivers to a selective set of clients on the network from their own desk or remotely.

### AVAILABILITY TIMELINE





## How DMI Works

The DMI architecture consists of four elements: a Management Interface (MI) API, a Component Interface (CI), a Management Information File (MIF) database and a Service Layer. The MI provides a single API for management application vendors, a standard way of obtaining management information from any PC, without knowing how the PC is configured or what operating system it is running. With DMI, vendors can focus on providing better information and user interfaces to LAN administrators versus trying to solve the infrastructure compatibility of so many different PCs with different OSs. The CI provides a similar benefit to vendors of add-in products for PCs, as it provides them a standard method of describing the management information about their product. The CI makes calls to the Service Layer to write this

management information into the MIF.

Management applications use the MI to make calls to the Service Layer to obtain information from the MIF files. The MIF files are stored in an MIF database, where the Service Layer acts as a broker between this database and MI requests from management applications.

With growing DMI deployment, LAN administrators will gain increasing manageability of their desktop PCs and servers.

Future implementation of mobile DMI as RDMI will extend these capabilities to the mobile client.

Finally, because DMI is independent of operating systems and hardware, it enables vendors to develop manageable PC products and applications across all platforms.

For information on DMI, please access Intel's home page on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.intel.com>

For more specific information on DMI, please refer to the following web sites:

<http://www.intel.com/ial/dmtf/index.html>

or the DMTF home page at:

<http://www.dmtf.org>

Or, please contact the Desktop Management Task Force at:

Email: [dmtf-info@dmtdf.org](mailto:dmtf-info@dmtdf.org)

FAX Back: 1-800-628-2283

Voice: 1-503-264-9300

## TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTERS<sup>1</sup>:

- **Personal Computers**  
Acer, AST, Compaq Computer, Digital Equipment Corporation, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, NEC, Olivetti, Siemens Nixdorf Information Systems, Zenith Data Systems
- **LAN Adapters**  
IBM, Intel Corporation, Madge, NuCom Systems, Olicom, SMC, 3Com
- **Printers**  
Lexmark
- **Management Applications**  
Acer, AST, Attachmate, CapaCity Digital Equipment Corporation, Dell, D-Link, IBM, Intel Corporation, McAfee, NEC, Novell, Saber Software, Siemens Nixdorf Information Systems, Systemsoft, Tally Systems

<sup>1</sup>Partial list

**intel.**